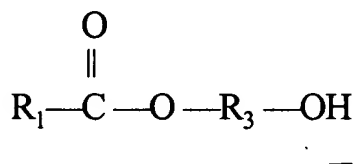
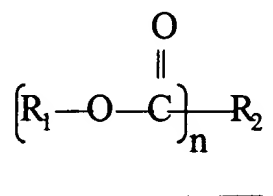
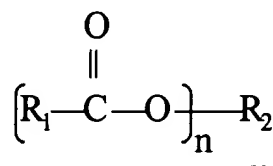


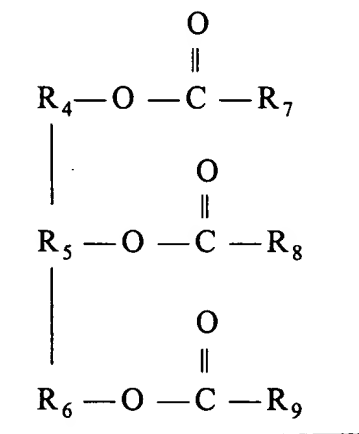


Appendix A
Marked-up Copy of Amended Claims

1. (Amended) A gel composition, comprising:
an ester compound; and
a polymer compound selected from the group consisting of triblock copolymers, star polymers, radial polymers, multi-block copolymers, and combinations thereof,
wherein the gel composition is substantially free of mineral oils,
wherein the ester is represented by one of the following formulas:



or



wherein n=1, 2, 3, and 4, and

R₁ includes hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, phenyl, methoxyphenyl, alkylphenyl, substituted alkyl, and substituted phenyl; R₂ includes hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, phenyl, methoxyphenyl, alkylphenyl, substituted alkyl, substituted phenyl, alkylene, phenylene, substituted alkylene, and substituted phenylene, and R₃ includes alkylene, phenylene, substituted alkylene, or substituted phenylene, and

wherein R₄, R₅, and R₆ individually include alkylene, phenylene, substituted alkylene, or substituted phenylene, and R₇, R₈ and R₉ individually include hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, phenyl, methoxyphenyl, alkylphenyl, substituted alkyl, and substituted phenyl.

2. (Amended) The gel composition of claim 1, further comprising a diblock copolymer, ~~wherein the gel composition is substantially free of mineral oils.~~

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

25. (Amended) A method of making a gel composition, comprising:
mixing an ester compound with a polymer compound selected from the group consisting of triblock copolymers, star polymers, radial polymers, multi-block copolymers, and combinations thereof,

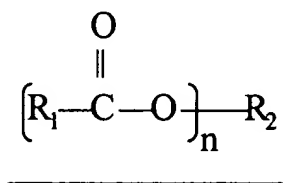
heating the mixture;

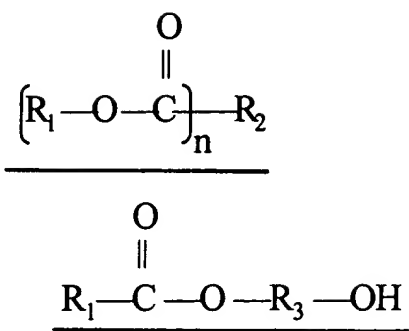
agitating the mixture until the mixture becomes homogeneous; and

cooling the mixture,

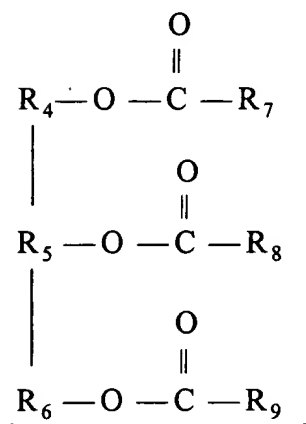
wherein the gel composition is substantially free of mineral oils,

wherein the ester is represented by one of the following formulas:





or



wherein n=1, 2, 3, and 4, and

R₁ includes hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, phenyl, methoxyphenyl, alkylphenyl, substituted alkyl, and substituted phenyl; R₂ includes hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, phenyl, methoxyphenyl, alkylphenyl, substituted alkyl, substituted phenyl, alkylene, phenylene, substituted alkylene, and substituted phenylene, and R₃ includes alkylene, phenylene, substituted alkylene, or substituted phenylene, and

wherein R₄, R₅, and R₆ individually include alkylene, phenylene, substituted alkylene, or substituted phenylene, and R₇, R₈ and R₉ individually include hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, phenyl, methoxyphenyl, alkylphenyl, substituted alkyl, and substituted phenyl.